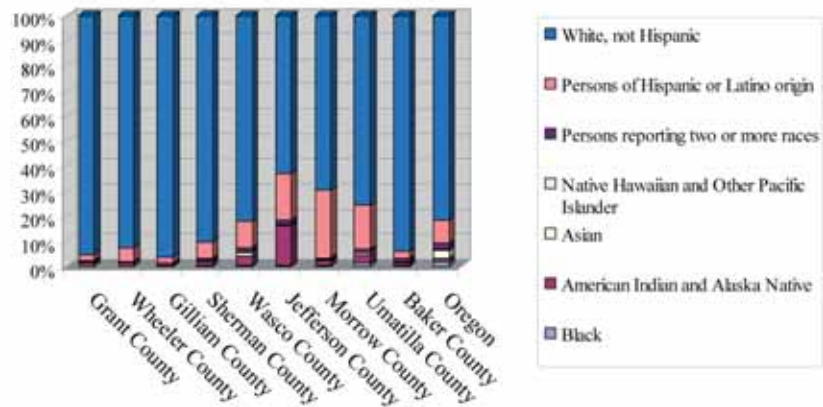
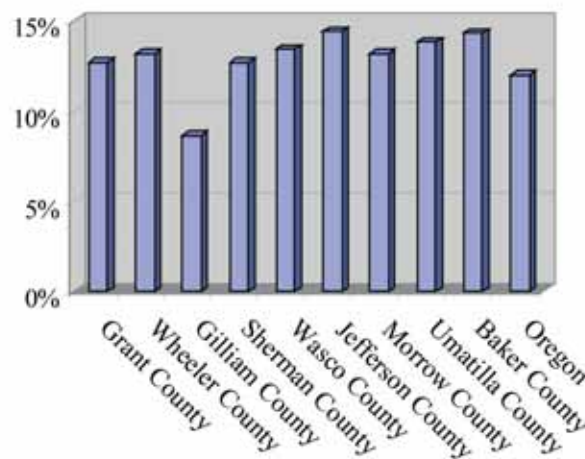


FIGURE 29: PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION BY REPORTED RACE (2004)



Source: US Census Bureau
County Quickfacts, 2003

FIGURE 30: PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL



Source: US Census Bureau County
Quickfacts, 2003

evident, there is no evidence that increases in poverty will result. While poverty rates are higher in Grant and Wheeler counties than the rest of the state, they are not extremely so, nor any higher than other rural counties in the region.

RESOURCE USES

NATIVE AMERICAN USES

Native American Indian uses involve a range of traditional economic, social, and religious practices performed by indigenous tribal groups on public lands. There are many facets to these uses. They can range from the protection of past burial sites to concerns about availability and access to root gathering areas to the quality of water that contributes to anadromous fish runs. The BLM has legal responsibility under treaty authority, federal law, and formal agreements with tribes to consider tribal concerns and interests when planning land use actions.

The distribution of these uses is not easily defined or well known. Many tribal members do not divulge this information either within a tribe or with agencies. The information the BLM does receive from tribes about use areas is withheld from the public as a condition of the special relationship between the tribes and the agency.

RECREATION

A wide variety of recreation opportunities are provided in a variety of settings on BLM land throughout the John Day Basin. Some of these activities include whitewater rafting, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, riding OHVs, camping, bird watching, rock hounding, photography, and sightseeing. Opportunities also exist for driving for pleasure and sightseeing for geological, botanical, zoological, archaeological, historical features and points of interest. In addition to locations where BLM public land is concentrated, recreation also occurs on state or county roads that provide access to BLM and USFS public lands.

Examples of high quality sightseeing opportunities on public lands include the Journey Through Time Scenic Byway, which highlights the John Day Basin's geologic and human history as it travels from Biggs, Oregon near the John Day River's confluence with the Columbia River, parallels miles of the John Day River including the scenic Picture Gorge area, and continues east of the city of John Day. Other popular sightseeing routes include the South Fork Back Country Byway along the South Fork John Day River near Dayville, and the North Fork of the John Day River northeast of Monument. An important aspect of sightseeing is the opportunity to view and photograph wildlife ranging from tiny hummingbirds to deer, bighorn sheep, elk, bear, and perhaps the occasional glimpse of a mountain lion. Sightseeing also occurs throughout the planning area.

Visitor use of the John Day Basin has increased and the season over which use occurs has expanded. Estimated annual use of BLM lands within the John Day River corridor was approximately 96,000 use days in 2003. Approximately 40,000 use days occur on the uplands within the JDBRMP area. Most visitor use occurs on the John Day River during the spring, summer and fall. In the spring and summer, visitor congestion occurs at popular watercraft launch and take-out sites at Service Creek, Twickenham, Clarno, and the Cottonwood Bridge. Fall hunting seasons In the fall hunting season encourages a similar increase in visitors.

RECREATION FACILITIES

There are 16 developed recreation sites managed by BLM within the planning area (see Map 9). Most of these sites are adjacent to the John Day River. None of the recreation sites within the planning area provide drinking water or trash receptacles. Most sites meet the accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

BLM manages four developed campgrounds which are also available for day-use, Big Bend and Lone Pine on the North Fork John Day near Kimberly, and Muleshoe and Service Creek on the mainstem near the community of Service Creek. Each provides picnic tables, campfire grates, and vault toilets and each accommodates car camping, except Service Creek which provides walk-in campsites. Service Creek recreation site is owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation and managed and maintained by BLM under a lease agreement.

Four recreation sites are managed specifically for day use in the John Day Basin planning area. These include Monument River Access Park along the North Fork John Day in the town of Monument. In addition three sites exist along the mainstem of the John Day; Shady Grove near Spray, Clarno where State highway 218 crosses the river west of Fossil, and Cottonwood Bridge where State highway 206 crosses the river east of Moro. Clarno and Cottonwood are owned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and are managed cooperatively by OPRD and BLM under a long term-lease agreement.